

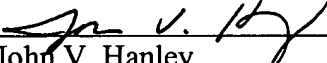
REMARKS

By this paper, claims 25-35 have been canceled and new claims 36-39 have been added to the present application. Claims 1-24 and 36-39 are now pending.

It is again respectfully submitted that the Drasler et al. patent (6,245,101) does not teach the "at least a pair of adjacent longitudinal members each having a circumferential width, wherein the radial thickness is greater than the circumferential width" which is recited in independent claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims including new claims 36-39 define patentable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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